Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 110709879

County of Child's Residence: WHARTON

Gender: Female

Age: 1 Year(s) 11 Month(s)

Date of Death: 04/23/2023

On the date of the fatality, the child was not in DFPS conservatorship and was living with the child's parent, a managing conservator, a legal guardian or other person entititled to the child's possession.

Child's Name: Reyes,Ace E

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 04/23/2023, 05/22/2023

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received multiple intakes that were merged into a single investigation notifying it of a fatal event after the mother and children were involved in a car accident. The mother's alcohol level was .2 and it was suspected that her car rolled over at least 100 feet. A child was ejected out of the vehicle and pronounced deceased at the scene. A sibling was life-flighted to the medical center. According to emergency medical services, the mother did not recall what happened. The sibling is currently at the hospital where mother was being treated and appears to be fine. She is having arm pain and had bleeding in her ear lobe. It was reported that none of the children were in car seats. The mother was arrested and being charged with manslaughter.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child's mother was the sole caregiver for her three children when she attended a family gathering. The deceased child's mother admitted to drinking alcohol and did not have car seats for the children when she was driving them home. She placed two siblings in the backseat and the infant child was placed in the front passenger seat also unsecured. The deceased child's mother lost control of the vehicle when she ran off the road causing the vehicle to overturn. The infant child was ejected from the vehicle and died on impact. The two siblings and mother were transported to the hospital for treatment and later discharged. Law enforcement confirmed the results of the mother's blood alcohol level was .2. The deceased child's mother was arrested and charged with Intoxication Involuntary Manslaughter and Intoxication assault. She was released on

bond.

The deceased child's father was not a caregiver and did not play a role in the fatal event. There was a protective order in place preventing him from having contact with the mother and children due to a previous domestic violence incident. The infant child was pronounced deceased at the scene. The deceased child's mother and father completed the substance abuse screening and mother was positive for marijuana. The deceased child's father was positive for marijuana and cocaine. The deceased child's mother and siblings initially moved in with relatives and she agreed to be supervised around her children. However, the in-home monitor and mother did not disclose concerning history and the parents did not have any other placement options. An emergency removal was granted by the Court and the siblings were placed in a foster home. The parents agreed to the court ordered services being offered by the Conservatorship department.

The law enforcement investigation was pending at the time the Department's investigation closed. The deceased child's mother was arrested and charged with Intoxication Involuntary Manslaughter and Intoxication Assault.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, but the final report was not available when the Department completed its investigation. The preliminary report indicates the cause of death was blunt force injuries with positional asphyxia and the manner of death as accident.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The deceased child's mother was driving while under the influence of alcohol when she ran off the road causing her vehicle to overturn. The deceased child was ejected from the vehicle and died on impact. The child had been in the care of the mother prior to his passing, and she failed to provide the needed supervision and was not protective.

The Department confirmed allegations that the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the two surviving siblings. The mother was under the influence of alcohol when she ran off the road and overturned the vehicle. The siblings were placed in a dangerous situation and susceptible to being fatally injured as a result of the mother's blatant disregard for their safety.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
04/23/2023 - Safety Assessment - Initial - Safe with plan.
05/05/2023 - Safety Assessment - Reassessment - Unsafe.
05/05/2023 - Risk Assessment - High.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The parents accepted the court ordered services offered by the Conservatorship department.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The siblings were removed and the parents were having supervised visits with them.

If one or more children were previously removed from the home, for each conservatorship episode, summarize dates of conservatorship and type of placement at the end of conservatorship:

5/6/2023 Foster home placement
6/29/2023 Relative placement

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s):

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

Investigation Findings:

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Note: This report was prepared on 10/24/2023 and does not include corrections or updates, if any, that may be subsequently made to DFPS data on or after the date this report was prepared.